



Congregation Emanu El

# Bulletin

OCTOBER 2024 | ELUL 5784 – TISHREI 5785

VOLUME 79 NUMBER 1

## FROM RABBI HAYON



*What is most beautiful during the Days of Awe is your ability to bring forth in prayer and reflection your true self: flawed, fragile and exquisitely imperfect.*

From the founding of Reform Judaism in the late 19th century until the middle of the 20th century, many American Reform synagogues made an aesthetic choice for their High Holy Days worship that seems incongruous, if not outright shocking, to us today: they did away with the sounding of the shofar and instead employed classically-trained musicians to play the traditional sounds through a trumpet or cornet. Some congregations dispensed with wind instruments altogether and used their pipe organs' trumpet stop to play rhythmic tones to simulate the sound of a ram's horn.

Though it may seem to have been disrespectful to the traditions of the Days of Awe, our Reform predecessors made this choice for a principled reason. By eliminating the blowing of a ram's horn, they saw themselves to be taking an active role in sanitizing the "primitive," undeveloped and antiquated customs of ancient Israelite religion, which they believed to be incompatible with their aspirations for a progressive form of Jewish practice committed to dignity and sophistication.

They believed that modern worship services ought to represent the height of aesthetic excellence; the primal

*continued on page 2*



## Sukkot on Sunset Sunday, October 20, 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the joy of Sukkot together this season as we gather for food and fun for the whole family, delicious barbecue and a beautiful service in our new sukkah.

The fun will include all the favorites, including our rock climbing wall, hayrides, bounce houses, crafts, and much more!

The evening will feature a catered dinner featuring American classics, refreshments and an Erev Sukkot service in the sukkah!

Members \$8 | Community Partners \$10  
Children under 2 FREE

Register online at [emanuelhouston.org/sukkot-onsunset-2024](http://emanuelhouston.org/sukkot-onsunset-2024).



2024 | 5785

# HIGH HOLY DAYS

[EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/HHDWORSHIP](http://EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/HHDWORSHIP)

T 713.529.5771  
F 713.529.0703

1500 Sunset Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77005

[EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG](http://EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG)

## SHABBAT WORSHIP

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Friday night services are streamed on our website, Facebook page, Roku channel, and YouTube. Saturday morning B'nei Mitzvah services are available solely on the website, and Saturday services take place in Proler Chapel as an in-person experience only. Any changes will be shared through synagogue communications.

### Shabbat Haazinu

#### Friday, October 4

6:00 p.m., Shabbat Shuvah with guest Bobbi Samuels, Proler Chapel

#### Saturday, October 5

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

### Yom Kippur

#### Friday, October 11

7:30 p.m., Kol Nidre Evening Service, Barish Sanctuary

#### Saturday, October 12

9:00 a.m., Children's Service, Barish Sanctuary

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

#### Yom Kippur Afternoon Offerings:

##### 12:30 p.m.

And the Youth Shall See Visions: Israel Through the Eyes of our Teens and Young Adults

##### 1:45 p.m.

- Let's Discuss: Small Group Conversations about Israel
- I Said I'm Sorry...Now What? Self-Reflection Through Art
- Write Your Personal Mission Statement
- Meditation

##### 2:35 p.m.

- Joining the Conversation: Repair and Return
- Emanu El Votes Forum
- Musical Contemplation

3:45 p.m., Healing & Wholeness

4:45 p.m., Eileh Ezk'rah, These I Remember: Marking a Year Since October 7

5:00 p.m., Yizkor

6:00 p.m., N'ilah

6:45 p.m., Break the Fast

### Shabbat Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot

#### Friday, October 18

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

#### Saturday, October 19

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

B'nei Mitzvah of **Myles Peskin**, son of Hannah Brook and Jeffrey Peskin, and **Hannah Brook**, mother of Myles Peskin

### Shabbat B'reishit

#### Friday, October 25

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

#### Saturday, October 26

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

B'nei Mitzvah of **James Mosbacher** and **Bobby Mosbacher**, sons of Lucy & Peter Mosbacher

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## FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

and uneven sound of a simple ram's horn was simply not fit for refined Jewish American communities.

This innovation in Reform High Holy Days worship did not last very long, however; by the 1960s, most Reform congregations had abandoned the use of brass instruments and returned to the use of traditional ram's horns in their shofar services. (If you are interested in hearing a musical testimony from this intermediary phase of musical transition in Reform worship, listen to Herman Berlinski's 1964 "Shofar Service," which includes a trumpet duet interwoven with the blasts of a shofar. You can find recordings of Berlinski's composition online.)

Why did this liturgical change not take hold? Why, despite Reform Judaism's abiding commitment to modernity, professionalism and excellence, did we return to the ancients' practice of blowing the staccato tones of repentance on a crude animal horn instead of with the smooth tones of a silver trumpet?

I'd suggest that, despite our Reform predecessors' firm devotion to cultural refinement and progress, certain things in Judaism will always stubbornly resist the pull of modernity and assimilation to western culture. The shofar is a perfect example. There is no doubt that a concert trumpeter will be able to produce a tone that is more even, pure, and sweet than would be possible for a ba'al tekiah blowing a ram's horn. But, especially on the High Holy Days, sometimes the most important offering we can present to God is the unvarnished authenticity of our yearnings, disappointments, and anguish.

Perhaps the greatest value of a shofar's call can be found in its crude roughness. The sound is halting and uneven. It limps and gasps. It can groan and whine like a wounded animal or weep like a baby. And it is precisely the shofar's unpolished character that illustrates a vitally important lesson at this sacred season: what is most valuable to God is not carefully-cultivated exterior appearances, but an attitude of genuine, authentic repentance that is brought forward humbly and wholeheartedly. What is most beautiful during the Days of Awe is your ability to bring forth in prayer and reflection your true self: flawed, fragile and exquisitely imperfect.

My prayer for all of us is that this holy season of the year will bring us to moments of spiritual discovery, enlightenment and forgiveness. May this be God's will.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from August 14 – September 10. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

**Jennifer & Nick Altman,**  
children Connor & Kyla  
**Elizabeth & Jeffrey Baron,**  
daughter Isabelle  
**Alexandra Bercow & Anthony Gualtieri**  
**Megan & Casey Carroll,**  
children Charlotte & Emma  
**Trish & Dylan Erwin**  
**Kelly Frydland,**  
daughter Freya  
**Mayra & Yuri Gelfand,**  
son Ethan  
**Phyllis & Peter Gingiss**  
**Donna & Zachary Hiller,**  
son Noam  
**Rachael Hunt & Rachel Kohnhorst**  
**Denise & Joel Kanter,**  
children Ari & Riley  
**Lauren Ordeneaux,**  
children Callum & Rebecca  
**Amy & Matthew Sandler,**  
daughter Lola  
**Elizabeth Sasser,**  
son Theodore  
**Michelle & Shea Soll,**  
children Maya, Reyna & Wren  
**Liz & Louis Weisberg**  
**Marlo Weisberg**  
**Molly & Marc Weisselberg,**  
children Benjamin & Jackson

New members will be shared in the *Bulletin* regularly. Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town or looking to find a way to connect with Emanu El? Contact Anna Shabtay at [annas@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:annas@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 261.

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

### WEDDINGS

**Haley Steinman & Justin Vincent**

### BIRTHS

**William Samuel Berg,** son of Molly & Jared Berg

**Nellie Jeanne Kaplan,** daughter of Regina Romano & Andrew Kaplan

**Aaron Nathaniel Slootsky,** son of Lana Rabinovich & Leo Slootsky

**Louis Gray Weingarten,** son of Carolyn Cohen & Adam Weingarten; grandson of Irene Weingarten, Steve Weingarten (z"l), and Joan & Daniel Cohen

### DEATHS

**Alan Haufrect,** brother of Joyce & Eric Haufrect and Dale Haufrect; father of Sarah Haufrect & Jared Michael Cote; uncle of Kim & Brian Haufrect, Mark Haufrect, Adam Haufrect, and Lisa & Ian Haufrect; great uncle of 6; cousin of Marcia & Sam Lewis, Mary & Larry Rosenberg, and Julie Rosenberg; nephew of Jana Rosenberg; brother-in-law of Lyn G. Binder

#### A Notice About Bereavement Communications

Bereavement notices for our temple family are distributed with the permission of the deceased's family, and the timing of these notices is dictated by the family's request. Of course, each family grieves in its own way, and we are grateful for our congregation's patience and understanding with different families' preferences about how their loss is publicized.



### Get Social With Us!

In addition to our active Facebook pages, be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the synagogue, including social action, a thriving youth group, our clergy in action and more!

Find us on Instagram at @emanuelhouston. And yes, please feel free to "check in" at Emanu El when you are here for events and happenings!



### Shabbat Shuvah with Guest Speaker Bobbi Samuels

Oneg Shabbat immediately following  
Friday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.



**Bobbi Samuels**

Hear a message of inspiration from our member, Bobbi Samuels, to deepen your spiritual and moral explorations on this very special Shabbat between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

#### About our speaker:

Growing up in Brooklyn, New York until she was 12, Bobbi was surrounded by loving family. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins all lived nearby. Her mother served as a role model. A high school teacher, Bobbi's mother sometimes even allowed Bobbi to help correct her students' papers. Although for a while she thought she might want to be a veterinarian, it was inevitable that Bobbi would decide to become a teacher.

In their early married years in Houston, much of Bobbi and Vic's attention was focused on improving education in the public schools. Both equipped with Master of Arts in Teaching degrees, they were involved with a group called Citizens for Good Schools which worked to overturn a right-wing, segregationist school board. Afterwards Bobbi was one of the early chairs of VIPS, Volunteers in Public Schools.

Children are a theme throughout Bobbi Samuels life. After a short stint as a high school English teacher, Bobbi got a doctorate in education and spent twenty years as a professor of reading, language arts, and literature for children and young adults at University of Houston Clear Lake School of Education.

As Director of the Greater Houston Area Writing Project at UHCL, a federally funded project, Bobbi helped teachers learn to teach writing by becoming writers themselves. She mentored teachers in their development as enthusiastic guides for student reading and writing. She is the former Chair of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of National Council of Teachers of English (ALAN) and of the Special Interest Group: A Network on Adolescent Literature of the International Reading Association (SIGNAL).

Dr. Samuels retired from her professional educator life in 2001 and since then has transferred her education expertise to the non-profit volunteer world. Through the years, even as Bobbi taught high school and then university students, she became more and more convinced of the importance of early childhood education.



### Celebrate Sukkot 2024

Join us as we celebrate the pilgrimage of our ancestors. For more information on any of our Sukkot events, please contact Allison Hale, Programming and Engagement Associate, at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org).

#### Building the Sukkah – Volunteers Needed! Sunday, October 13, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We are seeking volunteers to help build the sukkah for all to enjoy during Sukkot. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. This spirited tradition is a great way to connect with other Emanu El members in preparation for the holiday. In addition to building the sukkah, volunteers will be asked to return the following week to remove the sukkah until next year.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Allison Hale at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org).

### Women of Gen-X: Recreational Wellness Sip + Sample Wednesday, October 9, 6:30 p.m.



The Women of Gen-X Kehillah invite you to Bellaire's women-owned premier Cannaphoria + Wellness Shop. Known for their CBD/Hemp/Wellness products, Cannaphoria stands behind their 5.0-star rating of providing upscale, top of the line products. Guests will be guided through a selection of samples by their knowledgeable staff. Even if you're not sure what "the kids" are doing recreationally these days, Cannaphoria will help find what's right for you.

Registration for this event is required, and everyone 21 and up is invited to join! Limited spacing is available. Visit our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) to register.

*continued next page*

## Cocktails & Conversation in the Sukkah Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join us in the sukkah for cocktails, conversation, and (hopefully) fall-like weather! Please RSVP online or by contacting Allison Hale.

## Shabbat Oneg in the Sukkah Friday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for Shabbat Oneg in the sukkah following Friday services. Food and drinks will be served, and all are invited!

## Sukkot on Sunset Sunday, October 20, 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the joy of Sukkot together this season as we gather for food and fun for the whole family, delicious barbecue, and a beautiful service in our new sukkah. Register online by visiting [emanuelhouston.org/sukkot-on-sunset-2024](http://emanuelhouston.org/sukkot-on-sunset-2024).

## Etrog Vodka in the Sukkah Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.

Those 21 and up are invited to join Emanu El Young Professionals for a Sukkot celebration! We will learn how to make our own Etrog Vodka (one of Rabbi Fixler's specialties) and enjoy a festive meal together in the sukkah.

Because each participant will leave with their own bottle of Etrog Infused Vodka, pre-registration is required. Dinner \$15 per person.



## Monthly Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Silk Jewish Wisdom for Life's Great Questions

*7-session class meeting on the first Wednesday of the month*

### Beginning November 6, 12:30 p.m.

What is the role of gratitude in our lives? Is forgiveness important? How do we present ourselves to the world? Who am I responsible for? What is my relationship with God, and who is the God I may or may not believe in?

In this class we will explore the big questions of life as refracted through the Jewish tradition. Using the IYUN program from Hillel's Jewish Learning Fellowship, we will read – broadly and generously – traditional Jewish texts on conceptions of divinity, the inner life versus the public persona, the power of speech, community, and more.

Bring your lunch, we will provide dessert, beverages, and nourishment for your mind and soul.

Pre-registration is required, please contact Shira Moses in Rabbi Silk's office, at [shiram@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:shiram@emanuelhouston.org).

Space is limited and priority is given to members of Congregation of Emanu El.



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Emanu El is seeking volunteers for single-day events and programs. Volunteer assignments may include serving as a greeter or helping at registration.

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Sukkot on Sunset
- Music at Emanu El Concert Series (Volunteers will be comped 1 ticket!)

To learn more, contact Allison Hale, Programming & Engagement Associate, at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org).



## Find Us On YouTube!

Looking for a one-stop shop to catch the latest worship services, musical selections, videos from our schools and more?

Find us on YouTube by searching "Emanu El Houston Video" and subscribe today!

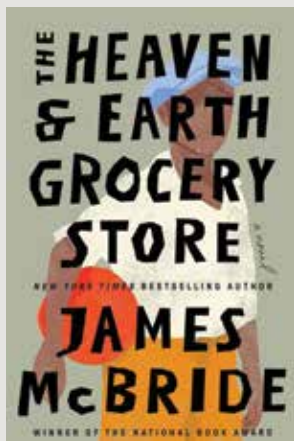
# SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

October 2024

## Mah Jongg is BACK! And on a NEW day! Wednesday, October 9 5:30 p.m.

One bam, two crak! Enjoy a light dinner and wine for \$7 and then play mah jongg! What could be more fun than dots, dragons,

and dinner? Enjoy a light dinner for \$7 with us, then play mah jongg. Please register online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org.



### BOOK REVIEW:

*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride  
Wednesday, November 20, 12:30 p.m.

With this story, McBride brilliantly captures a rapidly changing country, as seen through the eyes of the recently arrived and the formerly enslaved. Through this evocation, McBride offers us a thorough reminder: As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community – heaven and earth – that sustain us.

Please save the date for this phenomenal book review and enlightening discussion. Book reviews are open to public, but we do request that you RSVP online by visiting our web calendar or to the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

## NEW TRADITIONS

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP  
CONGREGATION EMANU EL

### New Traditions is OPEN!

After months of being closed, the Sisterhood Gift Shop is back and open for business!

And no time was wasted while closed. Volunteers worked tirelessly for weeks to not only set up shop but to learn a brand new and modernized inventory system. Come in and check it out!



New Traditions' first sale following official reopening



## SAVE THE DATE:

### Women's Day

November 13, 10:00 a.m.

This year Sisterhood will answer the question of what to do with your favorite room: the closet. Come hear tips on what to keep, what to donate, how to make money, and much more. Save the date to hear experts and have a great lunch.

Covert: \$18 members, \$25 guests. Watch your inbox for more details!



### 2025 Sisterhood Donor Event Sunset BLVD Comedy Club Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood announces a laugh-your-socks-off evening followed by a sumptuous dessert reception. Underwriting opportunities include valet parking, 10 VIP seats, and more!

For more underwriting information, contact Kathy Parven [sishooddonor@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishooddonor@emanuelhouston.org) or visit the temple's web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org/calendar](http://emanuelhouston.org/calendar).



**UNDER CONTRACT IN 8 DAYS**

*May I Help You Sell Your Home?*



#### MEYERLAND | 5747 Jason Street

Beautifully updated Mid-Century modern home has been lovingly maintained. The manicured landscaping welcomes you to a home featuring polished Terrazzo floors that flow through the entry, family room, and kitchen. Large windows fill the space with natural light. The kitchen boasts a gas range, double ovens, white cabinets, and black granite counters. It opens seamlessly to the family and breakfast rooms, perfect for entertaining or family gatherings. Both bathrooms in the bedroom wing have been remodeled. Step outside to enjoy the peaceful, landscaped backyard from your patio, offering a serene retreat for relaxation. This home truly combines modern updates with classic charm.

4 BEDROOMS | 2.5 BATHS | Last List Price \$565,000



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Syd Waldman  
Funeral Director





# Helfman Religious School

Helfman Religious School is back in session! We were so excited to be together and welcome over 350 Pre-K and 3 - 7th grade students, 32 teachers, and more than 85 teen teaching assistants back to the building! We celebrated with an amazing all-school t'filah with Music at Emanu El's Artist in Residence Eliana Light. If you would like to join us as part of our Helfmanteam, please contact Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabethht@emanuhouston.org](mailto:elizabethht@emanuhouston.org) or 713.535.6400.





# SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

2024 — 2025



**CHAVA MIREL**

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | WAREHOUSE SHABBAT | 8:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE | 10:30 AM**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 | ADULT EDUCATION | 10:30 AM**

**GOT THAT SWING: CELEBRATING  
JEWISH AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
BIG BAND GREATS**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 | 7:30PM**

*In partnership with the ERJCC*



**AN AFTERNOON OF KLEZMER**

KLEZMER CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC FOUNDER/DIRECTOR  
HANKUS NETSKY & COMPOSER/PERFORMER EDEN MACADAM-SOMER  
AND SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 | 2:00 PM MASTER CLASS WORKSHOP**

**4:00 PM CONCERT**

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR SEASON POSSIBLE**

TO BECOME A FRIEND OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL AND FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE](http://WWW.EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE)  
OR CALL ANNA SHABTAY, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL ADVANCEMENT, [ANNAS@EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG](mailto:ANNAS@EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG) | 713.987.3316

## New Emanu El Security Fund Announced



Milton and Barbara Wagner

Anyone who has recently visited the temple can clearly see there is a heightened security presence to enter the property, step inside, and monitor where you are at a given point in time. “This is the new reality of Jewish institutions in the world today,” states Board President Adam Pollock. “Safety and security are now

front and center, so members and their families can come and go without fear and stress. Security at Emanu El is a higher priority than ever before.”

The awareness of this need and our uncertain world were part of the impetus in the establishment of the Barbara and Milton Wagner Building Security and Safety Fund, founded by brother and sister Brad Wagner and Alisha Risch, in memory of their beloved parents. The new Endowment Fund will help support and supplement security and safety expenses at Emanu El, including both capital and operating expenses.

Both Brad and Alisha grew up at Emanu El, where their father Milton was an active volunteer and member, and their mother Barbara was involved in Sisterhood. Barbara, a Wharton native, supported her kids, while Milton, a Port Arthur native, built his career as a pediatric radiologist at Texas Children’s Hospital. Some years ago, Brad taught Hebrew and religious school at the temple, and used the back entrance, closest to the classrooms, without issue. “Today that easy access wouldn’t be possible.”

The siblings recalled that their parents were security and safety conscious, and thought there might be a need in this area. “Sadly, after Emanu El’s 2023 security challenges and the rise in antisemitism since war broke out in Israel, it became clear this type of fund would be timely and greatly utilized,” notes Brad. “We both dislike that it’s so critical, but we know it will help augment the temple’s security budget, play a pivotal role in the new

campus expansion, and help provide peace of mind to the congregation and the community.”

“I believe our parents would appreciate this fund and we believe it’s a special way to honor them and their long-time involvement at Emanu El,” adds Alisha, who married her husband Jonathan at the temple. “We are grateful we can help provide support, and hope it offers an added source of comfort in the years to come.”

On any financial level, we all have the capacity to make a difference. Creating an Endowed Fund supports the future of Congregation Emanu El and can be done during one’s lifetime or after one’s lifetime. Establishing a named endowment fund in memory of loved ones is an excellent way to remember them in perpetuity.

For additional information on the Barbara and Milton Wagner Building Security and Safety Fund, or to contribute to the temple’s Endowment through planned giving and legacy gifts, please contact Anna Shabtay at [annas@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:annas@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.987.3316.



### Community Vigil Program: Marking One Year of Hope Monday, October 7, 7:15 p.m. Congregation Beth Yeshurun (4525 Beechnut St.)

Congregation Emanu El is proud to partner with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and nearly 40 other local nonprofit Jewish organizations to host a community-wide vigil to commemorate the tragedy of October 7. This event is free and open to the public; however, registration is required at [houstonjewish.org/commemoration](http://houstonjewish.org/commemoration).

The evening’s program will focus on “Remembrance, Unity, and Hope” and include songs, prayers, and remarks from community leaders.

## Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)



**ATTENTION SENIORS:** Your current PDP sponsor should have this month or will shortly provide you with an Annual Notice of Change about your current prescription drug plan for 2025. Review that Notice, which describes changes in your Plan, including changes to the premium, co-pay, and the drugs covered. If you are satisfied with the changes and want to remain in that Drug Plan, you do not have to do anything to stay in that Plan for 2025. However, you might be advised that your current plan will be discontinued or merged with another plan for 2025 or if you are in doubt as to whether or not your current plan is the best plan for you, you may want to review your options before accepting that change or staying with your current plan. **You have from October 15 to December 7, 2024 to make changes to your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. To change your Prescription Drug Plan, you must sign up by December 7, 2024.** The change will be effective January 1, 2025.

If you want to review your current Part D plan, the Emanu El Social Action Committee will provide a trained volunteer to assist your analysis of alternatives. If you know how to contact the person that helped you in the past please contact them directly. If you are not sure and/or would like a volunteer to contact you between **October 15 and December 7, 2024**, CALL Cynthia Pleason at 713-855-9260 and leave your name, phone number and email address and you will be contacted to schedule a convenient time to assist you.

When contacted by a volunteer, you will need to have available the following information:

1. Your MyMedicare username & password. If you do not have an account you will need to create one. The volunteer can provide assistance to you to do so.
2. Your new Medicare Card (Medicare number and the date enrolled in Part A & Part B)
3. Your drug list: name, dosage and frequency of each medication
4. The name of your current insurance plan, if any
5. The name of your preferred pharmacy
6. And your zip code

Do not wait until the last minute to make your call. If you want to sign up for a Medicare Part D (drug) plan for the first time, you will need to create a personal account at [www.mymedicare.gov](http://www.mymedicare.gov). Call Cynthia Pleason at 713-855-9260 and a volunteer will assist you in setting up your account.







We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through September 9, 2024.

**ACCESS FOR ALL FUND**

*To ensure Emanu El is a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive community*

In Memory of

**Nancy Peskin**

Denise & Steven Miller

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
FUND**

*To support small and emerging organizations that improve life for underserved Houstonians*

In Memory of

**Susan Farb Morris**

Ellen Brodsky Gaber &  
Donald Brodsky  
Marsha & Mark Klaff  
Jeri & Jeff Wolff

**BARBARA & MILTON  
WAGNER BUILDING  
SECURITY & SAFETY FUND**

*To support ongoing building security and safety costs*

In Memory of

**Paula Levy**

Carol & Barry Goodfriend

**BECKER EARLY  
CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To provide and enhance Becker School programs*

In Appreciation of

**Melissa & Jay Weingast  
– Being Together for the  
New Year**

Barbara & Henry Fasteau

In Honor of

**The Birthday of Marilynn  
Gerber Rosenthal**

David Gerber

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY  
BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

**A Donation**

Yakov Govshteyn

In Memory of

**Barry Okin**

Barbara Miller

**CHESTER MARCUS  
CAMBERSHIP FUND**

*To provide scholarships for attending Jewish camps or programs*

In Memory of

**Nancy Peskin**

**Terri Taskey**

Shirley Burkom

**CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS  
FUND**

*To provide Emanu El's clergy with funds to help individuals in need and to support organizations that benefit the community*

In Honor of

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**

The Family of Nancy  
Peskin

**The Anniversary of  
Barbara & Raymond  
Kalmans – 60th**

**The Birthday of Barry  
Goodfriend – 90th**

**The Speedy Recovery of  
Cathy Chelin**

Rozanne & Howard Rubin

In Memory of

**Irv Kauffman**

Jennis Kauffman,  
Peggy Arriaga, and Julie  
Kauffman

**Barry Okin**

Karen & Jeff Basen-  
Engquist

**Nancy Peskin**

Julie Muntz & Peter  
Johnson

**Sadye Rosmarin**

Marie Brochstein

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER  
FUND**

*To feed the hungry in Houston and to support Kids Meals*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Carol &  
Barry Goodfriend – 60th**

Sandy & Don Harris

**The Bat Mitzvah of  
Hannah Mermelstein**

Donna & William  
Zhukovsky

In Memory of

**Carolyn Frapart Krause**

Sandy & Don Harris

**Nancy Peskin**

Marlene Slobin

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM  
LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To support leadership development for Emanu El lay leaders, staff, clergy, and the congregation*

In Honor of

**The Birthday of Eddie  
Brook – 90th**

Rhonda & Eric Lipper

In Memory of

**Carolyn Frapart Krause**

**Nancy Peskin**

Jan & Rick Sander

**FREDELL LACK EICHHORN  
CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND**

*To enhance musical programming*

In Honor of

**Cantor Vadim Tunitsky**

The Family of Nancy  
Peskin

**The Bat Mitzvah of  
Hannah Mermelstein**

Cantor Kat Hastings

In Memory of

**Leatrice Rabalais**

Phyllis Berman

**HAROLD REINGOLD  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

*To enhance Helfman Religious School programs*

In Memory of

**Nancy Peskin**

Linda & Michael  
Friedberg

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS  
PLAYSPACE FUND**

*To maintain and enhance the playground*

In Memory of

**Francis Van Gelder**

Janis & Jake Isgur

**L'DOR VADOR CAMPAIGN**

*To expand our learning and gathering spaces and ensure a welcoming, secure, and accessible campus for all*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of  
Barbara & Raymond  
Kalmans – 60th**

Beth & Lee Schlanger

**The Bat Mitzvah of**

**Allison Ney**

Judy Ney

**The Speedy Recovery of  
Alan Helfman**

Claudia & Joel Selzer

In Memory of

**Paula Levy**

Tammy & Dan Feldstein

**Barry Okin**

The Feldstein Family

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD  
SISTERHOOD FLOWER  
FUND**

*To provide flowers in our worship spaces*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of  
Barbara & Raymond  
Kalmans – 60th**

Carol & Barry Goodfriend

**The Anniversary of Linda &  
Richard Stanley – 60th**

Dr. Larry J. Greenfield  
and Family

**The Birthday of Barry  
Goodfriend – 90th**

Helen & Larry Rose and  
Family

**The B'nei Mitzvah of  
Geraldine Daumerie &  
Alexander Mayer**

The Mayer Family

*continued next page*

**The B'nei Mitzvah of David Dluhy & Joshua Leipold**

The Dluhy & Leipold Families

**The B'not Mitzvah of Brynn Cabe & Hannah Mermelstein**

The Cabe & Mermelstein Families

In Memory of

**Jean Duval**

Kathy & Glen Duval and Kara Duval & J.P. Hamilton  
Linda & Richard Stanley, Jessica & Erik Teegerstrom, and Sam & Jack Kagan

**Bettie Farfel**

The Farfel Family

**Dan B. Gerson**

Paula G. & Irving Pozmantier and Family

**Joseph Gittelman**

Dr. Larry J. Greenfield

**Michelle Roth Glauben**

The Roth & Glauben Families

**Dorothy & Sam Goldberg and Dorothy & Sam Taub**

The Leipold Family

**Marianne Greenfield**

Kathy & Glen Duval and Kara Duval & J.P. Hamilton  
Dr. Larry J. Greenfield  
Elizabeth & Matt Krohn and Family  
Donna & Phil Schmidt  
Linda & Richard Stanley, Jessica & Erik Teegerstrom, and Sam & Jack Kagan  
Michelle & Howard Stone and Family  
Debbie Zissman and Family

**Marianne Duval Greenfield, William Stone, & Jean Albert Duval**

Michelle & Howard Stone, Mindy, Mark & Lainey Spellman, and Christina, Alex & Julia Stone

**Max Greenfield**

Dr. Larry J. Greenfield and Family

**Gary Kass, Frieda Kass Aronson, Wayne Pitts, and Betsy Dluhy**

The Dluhy Family

**Anthony Mayer, Matilda & Leon Rubin, Eleanor & Irving Mayer, Adrienne & Raoul Lachambre, and Anne & Gui Daumerie**

The Mayer Family

**Barry Okin**

Dr. Larry J. Greenfield

**Nancy Peskin**

Linda & Richard Stanley, Jessica & Erik Teegerstrom, and Sam & Jack Kagan

**Byron Rance, Dorothy Freedman, Al Freedman, Harold Rance, Abe & Celia Ruth Gomberg, and Lynn & Lee Cabe**

The Cabe Family

**Donna Wilsker, Rita Mermelstein, Benjamin Garbis, Lillian Garbis, and Miriam Wilsker**

The Mermelstein Family

**Edward Zissman**

Linda & Richard Stanley, Jessica & Erik Teegerstrom, and Sam & Jack Kagan  
Michelle & Howard Stone, Mindy, Mark & Lainey Spellman, and Christina, Alex & Julia Stone  
Debbie Zissman and Family

**Jennie Zissman**

Debbie Zissman and Family

**RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To support spiritual and cultural enrichment*

In Honor of

**The Birthday of Helen & Martin Mark**

Joy & Harris Jacobs

In Memory of

**Joseph Leon Bormaster**

Judy & Michael Feinstein

**Mickey Kuhr**

Marsha Wallace

**Mark Louis Schrabert**

**Rose Ann Schrabert**

Sondra Ross

**Linda Walter**

Marilyn Presser

**RICKY SCHNURR CAMPERSHIP FUND**

*To provide scholarships for attending Jewish camps or programs*

In Memory of

**Barry Okin**

Sondra Ross

**Isobel Tashnek**

Cynthia & David Senior

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND**

*To support programs that assist people in the community*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Pat & Aaron Fradkin**

Lou & Herb Mizis

**The Birth of Steve Louis Gray**

Myra Mayer

**The Birthday of Susan Altschuler**

Susie & David Askanase

In Memory of

**Nancy Peskin**

Phyllis Berman

**Isobel Tashnek**

Donna & William

Zhukovsky

**Renee Zalzman**

Marlene & Larry Bursten

**ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND**

*To fund social justice programming and support congregants' participation in social justice focused gatherings and leadership trainings*

In Memory of

**Alan Haufrect**

Betty Duson & Al Kahn

**SISTERHOOD FUND**

*To provide for the Sisterhood*

In Memory of

**Deana Bernhaut**

Mitzi Shure & Jerry Wische

**Nancy Peskin**

Lynda & Dan Greenberg  
Barbie & Lennie Roth  
Mitzi Shure & Jerry Wische

**SUSMAN FUND FOR FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

*To support programs for families*

In Memory of

**Richard Susman & Lila Rauch**

Linda Rauch Susman

**TEMPLE FUND**

*To support the needs of the temple and to fulfill the mission of Congregation Emanu El*

**A Donation**

Richard Schechter  
The Estate of Ronda Brand Stern

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Barbara & Raymond Kalmans – 60th**

Phyllis Berman

**The Anniversary of Sarah & Ari Kessler – 12th**

Madgelyn & Richard Pesin

**The Birthday of Eddie Brook – 90th**

Joan Alexander  
Merryl & Gordon Zuber

In Memory of

**Joseph Leon Bormaster**

Lisa & Adam Pollock and Family  
Donna & Philip Tenenbaum

**Alan Haufrect**

Dr. Carl Schmulen

**Paula Levy**

Carole Farfel

**Barry Okin**

Lisa & Adam Pollock and Family

**Alfred Osborn**

Sandy Barrash  
Gail & Joel Rovinsky

**Nancy Peskin**

Gerald Peskin  
Lisa & Adam Pollock and Family  
Jo Ann & John Wittmann

Below please find a quick guide with important information about this year's High Holy Day season at Emanu El. A comprehensive guide detailing services, youth and family offerings, and more will be mailed to homes in the coming weeks.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### ROSH HASHANAH

**Wednesday, October 2**

**High Holy Day Kickoff Reception, 5:00 p.m.**

**Rosh HaShanah Unplugged, 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, October 3**

**Children's Service, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

**Morning Service 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### TASHLICH

**Thursday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.**

Bill Coats Bridge (Hermann Park)

### SHABBAT SHUVAH

**Friday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.**

### OUTDOOR HIGH HOLY DAY FAMILY EXPERIENCE

**Sunday, October 6, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Nature Discovery Center (7112 Newcastle St.)

### CEMETERY SERVICE

**Sunday, October 6, 5:00 p.m.**

Emanu El Memorial Park (8431 Bissonnet St.)

### KOL NIDRE

**Friday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.**

### YOM KIPPUR

**Saturday, October 12**

**Children's Service, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

**Morning Service, 10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Afternoon Experience, 12:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.**

**Healing & Wholeness, 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Israel Moment, 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Yizkor, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**N'ilah, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**

**Break the Fast, 6:45 p.m.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LIVE STREAMING

You can watch High Holy Day services live in four ways:

- **Emanu El website:**  
[emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org)
- **Facebook:**  
[facebook.com/emanuelhouston](https://facebook.com/emanuelhouston)
- **Roku:**  
Congregation Emanu El Houston channel
- **YouTube:**  
[youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo](https://youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo)

Archived videos of services, musical selections and sermons will be available at the same digital locations.

### HEARING LOOP

The Barish Sanctuary is equipped with an Induction Loop System which transmits audio signals directly to one's telecoil (T-coil)-equipped hearing aid.

### CLOSED CAPTIONING

To ensure those who are hard of hearing can enjoy and participate in our beautiful High Holy Days services, we will be providing closed captioning for all Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services in the Barish Sanctuary except for the children's services.

For those watching remotely, we intend to use the StreamText platform and will provide the appropriate URL in upcoming synagogue communications.

### GOING OUT OF TOWN FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS?

Will you be out of town for Rosh HaShanah and/or Yom Kippur? Through our affiliation with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), our congregation enjoys reciprocity with hundreds of synagogues nationally. The link to URJ's reciprocity form can be found on our High Holy Days page at [emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship](http://emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship).



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## DIGITAL PASSES

All members in good standing should have received an email from SimpleTix with your digital pass. If you did not, please contact membership at [membership@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:membership@emanuelhouston.org) or Jessie Cassorla at [jessiec@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jessiec@emanuelhouston.org). Please make sure to search your email for SimpleTix – your pass might be in your spam folder. You will receive ONE pass for the entire High Holy Days season.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PHONE WITH YOUR DIGITAL PASS OR A PRINTED COPY!**

## TASHLICH

After our morning Rosh HaShanah services end with the stirring sounds of the shofar, we will make our way to Bill Coats Bridge for Tashlich, where we will gather with our clergy for a short service of music and reflection. Again this year, we'll be joined by an ice cream truck in the adjoining parking lot to allow us to celebrate "Tashlick" with extra sweetness! A bus will be available for those who wish to attend but not park at the bridge. The bus will load at the temple's South Lobby, facing Sunset Blvd. For the location of Bill Coates Bridge and parking details, visit our High Holy Days hub at [emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship](http://emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship).

## YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON OFFERINGS

Following our meaningful Yom Kippur morning service, we will hear from young adults who will share their diverse perspectives about Israel and this moment for America Jews. Join us to learn from our young members about their experiences on this summer's Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience, at their college campuses, and more. After we hear from our young adults, we will have the opportunity to share our thoughts about Israel in small-group sessions.

After this time of togetherness as a community and discussion about Israel, you will have the chance to

choose from several different offerings, including "Write Your Own Personal Mission Statement," spending time in quiet contemplation in our chapel with music from the Shepherd School, and exploring self-reflection through art.

Following our afternoon experiences, we will come together at our **3:45 p.m.** service to pray for Wholeness and Healing. At **4:45 p.m.**, we will share a brief service of literature, poetry and music of lament that invites us to mourn the loss of life and commemorate the tragic events of October 7 and the year that has followed. We will begin our concluding services with Yizkor, a time for the community to remember our loved ones through prayer, silence, and the recitation of names. N'ilah, when we hear the last stirring sound of the Shofar, will be followed by our traditional Break the Fast.

Information about our afternoon options and more can be found on the High Holy Days page of our website at [emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship](http://emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship).

## HIGH HOLY DAYS HUNGER APPEAL

Last year, your generosity allowed us to contribute \$5,000 each to the Emergency Aid Coalition, Second Servings, the Houston Food Bank and Meals on Wheels. Congregation Emanu El's longstanding commitment to fighting hunger is made possible year after year by our congregants' generous contributions to the High Holy Days Hunger Appeal.

Donations will support emergency food needs in the Houston area, our partners in the community helping to fight hunger and our ongoing service projects with Kids' Meals and SEARCH. More than 1 million people in the greater Houston area are food insecure and 1 in 4 kids in our area are hungry every day.

Please consider joining our collective efforts to help battle hunger by making a contribution to the High Holy Days Hunger Appeal at [emanuelhouston.org/hhdhungerappeal](http://emanuelhouston.org/hhdhungerappeal) or by mailing a check to the Congregation before October 31, 2024.

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**Our clergy want  
to know . . .**

**If you or a loved one is sick or hospitalized please let us know.**

**Contact the synagogue at 713.529.5771, so that our rabbis can reach out and visit and be a source of strength and support.**

**Visiting the sick and praying for those who are ill are important and meaningful mitzvot.**



## A Great Start to the School Year

The first few weeks of school at Becker have been filled with excitement, energy, and meaningful moments as students, teachers, and parents come together to begin another year of growth and discovery. In our Reggio-inspired environment, students are already engaged in hands-on learning, exploring new ideas, and building connections with their peers and teachers. We focus on fostering curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning, creating a strong foundation for academic and personal excellence.

Teachers have been hard at work setting the stage for a year filled with exploration and discovery. Classrooms are designed to spark curiosity and collaboration, and our educators are dedicated to meeting each child where they are, guiding them on their individual journey of learning.

A highlight of the start of the school year has been our Back-to-School Parent Event. This outstanding gathering gave parents a chance to meet their child's teachers, learn more about the curriculum, and hear about the exciting activities planned for the year. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to connect with one another, as well as with the staff, in an informal and engaging environment. The evening's presentations focused on Becker's unique Reggio-inspired approach, our commitment to creating an inclusive, supportive community, and how we work together to ensure that each child thrives.

Another special moment during these first weeks was our Becker Shabbat, where we were honored to welcome Eliana Light as a guest. Eliana, a renowned Jewish educator and musician, filled our Shabbat gathering with joyful music and spirit. Her songs and message not only inspired our students but also deepened their connection to Jewish traditions in a meaningful and engaging way. This memorable Shabbat celebration added an extra layer of warmth and community to our school's start.

As we move forward into the school year, the sense of community and shared purpose is stronger than ever, and we are excited for the many opportunities ahead. From classroom projects to special events, we are confident this will be a year of growth, learning, and joyful discovery for everyone at Becker.









### Gen-X Kehillah Mixology Education

On August 28, the newly-formed Gen-X Kehillah met with guest presenter Ricce Goldfarb from Mommy Mixology and her assistant Alexis, who demonstrated just how to make the perfect cocktail (and mocktail!) for any social setting!



### Move with EE

On August 28, Cantor Simmons and friends joined the new MOVE with Emanu El Fitness Series for their first meeting, which included a breathtaking run around Rice. HUGE Mazels to Programming & Engagement Associate Allison Hale for organizing this new program promoting fitness and healthy living to our Emanu El family!



### Emanu El Cares! Volunteering at Houston Food Bank

On September 1, Emanu El volunteers helped to perform a mitzvah by cleaning, sorting, packaging, and palletizing food.



### Gathering Place

On September 4, Emanu El's monthly Gathering Place get together received a surprise visit from Rabbi Silk!





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## Emanu El at the Ballpark 2024

On August 18, members of our clergy joined fellow congregants for our 9th year at the ballpark to root for the Astros!





This Bulletin is printed on recycled paper.



Congregation Emanu El

**Oren J. Hayon**, Senior Rabbi  
**Pamela B. Silk**, Associate Rabbi  
**Joshua R.S. Fixler**, Associate Rabbi  
**Roy A. Walter**, Rabbi Emeritus  
**Rollin Simmons**, Cantor

**Beryl Chernov**, Executive Director  
**Rachel Spector-McAdam**, Director of  
Becker School  
**Anna Shabtay**, Director of  
Congregational Advancement  
**Sharon Donia**, Director of Accounting &  
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**Adam Pollock**, President  
**Philip Tenenbaum**, Senior Vice President  
**Dan Gospin**, Vice President of Personnel  
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**Ivy Frank**, Vice President of Committees  
**Dora Klaff**, Vice President of Committees  
**Haran Levy**, Treasurer  
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**Stuart Gaylor**, Honorary President  
**Judy Simon**, President of Sisterhood

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG



Emanu El Votes

**It's Nonpartisan – It's Civic Engagement –  
Let's Be a 100% Voting Congregation**

Make your plan now. Election Day is soon!

**Monday, October 7** – Last Day to register to vote  
**Friday, October 25** – Last Day to Apply for a Ballot by Mail  
Reminder: You have to re-register to vote by mail every year!  
**Monday, October 21 - Friday, November 1** – In-Person Early Voting  
**Tuesday, November 5** – Deadline to Submit Ballot by Mail  
**Tuesday, November 5** – Election Day  
**Election Day Voting Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Emanu El will be a polling place on Election Day. For further information, polling locations, your official ballot, and to check your voter registration, visit our webpage at [emanuelhouston.org/eevotes](http://emanuelhouston.org/eevotes).

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

We need volunteers to make nonpartisan calls to congregants urging them to vote in November. Training is provided for all volunteers. It will be a fun way to fulfill our Jewish value of civic engagement and meet new friends. To volunteer, sign up online by visiting [emanuelhouston.org/eevotes](http://emanuelhouston.org/eevotes) or email [eevotes@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:eevotes@emanuelhouston.org).



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